

Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services.

Take Winter By **STORM**

Did you know that during intense rain, flooding may occur without warning? Here are a few steps you can take to keep your family and property safe.



- Clear leaves and debris away from street drains in your neighborhood with a rake or broom (only if it's safe). Don't put grass clippings, leaves, or other debris into drains, ditches, creeks, culverts, gutters or ravines. If a storm drain appears blocked below the street surface, call **206-386-1800**.
- Collect fallen leaves and deposit them in your food and yard waste container or compost them.
- Clean gutters and downspouts twice a year.
- Have a family disaster plan.
- Build a family emergency kit. Keep enough water, food and other supplies (flashlights, crank or battery-operated radio, blankets) in your home to meet your needs for at least three days.
- Stay out of flooding basements.
- Protect water pipes from freezing in exposed or unheated areas (attics, basements and garages) by wrapping with tape and insulating materials.

For more tips on how to prepare for winter storms, visit www.takewinterbystorm.org.

Free!



Bert's Auto Leaks Class

Help Bert the Salmon keep oil and other fluid leaks from your car from harming our local waterways and wildlife. Join the experts at South Seattle Community College's Automotive Technology Program for a **FREE** auto leaks class. Learn where most leaks occur and proper auto maintenance technique - great for new drivers, do-it-yourselfers, or those just wanting to become more familiar with their car. Participants will leave with a leak prevention and cleanup kit, and be entered for a chance to have their oil and coolant changed for free that day. Classes will be on October 23 and November 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the college's Automotive Technology Building. Space is limited. Call **206-386-9746** or email anthony.matlock@seattle.gov to register. Forty slots are available with future classes to be offered.

Problems Paying Your Bill?

If your household income is 70 percent or less of the state median, you are eligible to apply for the Utility Discount Program, which offers Seattle residents a 50 percent reduction on their utility bills for up to 18 months. Income requirements are listed below. Customers living in federally subsidized housing cannot qualify for the discount. Program applications and information can be found at www.peoplepoint.info or by calling **206-684-0268**.

Income Guidelines*

People in Household	Total Monthly Income
1	2,380
2	3,112
3	3,845
4	4,577
5	5,309
6	6,041



Help Prevent Flooding



You can help prevent flooding and improve water quality in your neighborhood and beyond by participating in Fall Clean 2010 and adopting a drain. Volunteer to help keep storm drains clear of leaves and debris.

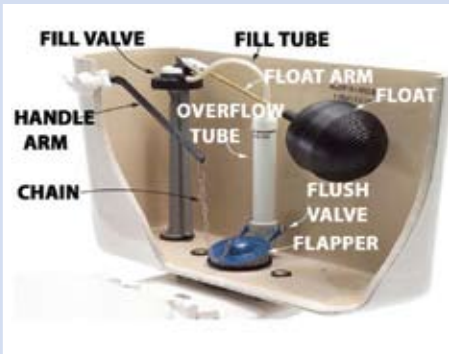
Seattle Public Utilities faces a big job every autumn, trying to keep storm drains from clogging with leaves

and flooding streets. As a way to involve citizens, the utility is promoting Fall Clean — a one-month event in November that supports volunteers with free gloves, bags, brooms, rakes, and safety vests, as well as help with leaf disposal.

Please don't wait until storm season to take action. Your efforts divert pollutants from streams, creeks and other natural waterways. For more information on Fall Clean call **206-233-7187** or visit www.seattle.gov/util/adoptadrain.

* Income limits change every January 1. Program participants who are still eligible can re-apply for continued assistance every 3-18 months.

Don't Let a Little Leak Turn into a Big Bill!



Finding and fixing leaks is an easy way to save money on utility bills. Leaky toilets, faucets, and outdoor watering systems can add up to hundreds of dollars and waste thousands of gallons of water each year.

Of all the leaks in the home, toilet leaks are the most frequent, and often the costliest. Unlike faucet leaks, toilet leaks can go undetected since they can be silent. Fortunately most toilet leaks are relatively easy to fix.

Here's how to check and fix a leaky toilet:

Remove the toilet tank lid.

Put several drops of food coloring in the tank. Replace the lid but don't flush the toilet. After 10 minutes, look in the bowl. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak, probably from a worn flapper.

Remove the flapper.

To remove the flapper disconnect the chain from the flush arm, unclip the flapper from the overflow valve. Purchasing the wrong flapper might compromise your toilet's flushing performance. There are many different flappers on the market, so make sure you bring your old flapper with you to the store.

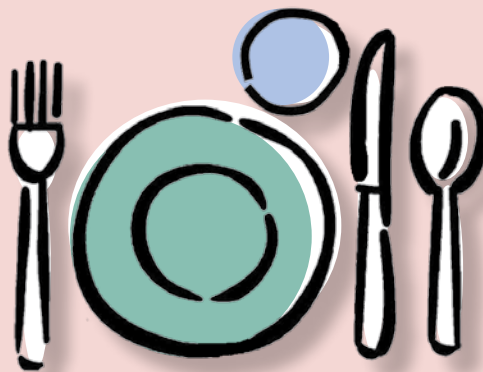
Consider an upgrade.

If your toilet was made before 1994, consider replacing it with a high-efficiency WaterSense-labeled toilet. Upgrading to a WaterSense-labeled toilet not only makes good economic sense, you can also be assured of superior performance.

For a limited time, Seattle Public Utilities customers who replace their old toilets with new WaterSense-labeled models are eligible for a \$30 rebate. To learn more about the \$30 rebate or how to find leaks, visit www.savingwater.org or call 206-684-SAVE (7283).

Eating Out? Stop. Think. Sort.

It's still a pretty new thing, putting your cups, napkins and paperboard burger and fry boxes in the composting and recycling bins that are now at your favorite coffee shops and quick-serve restaurants. Thanks to those new bins, Seattle leads the nation in keeping single-use food packaging out of the landfill. When you take a moment to stop, think and sort what's on your tray into the right bin, you're helping to keep 6,000 tons of leftovers and packaging out of the landfill each year. That's a 100-car garbage train we no longer need. Thank you for helping out!



Fall into Action

This autumn get active and learn what you can do to protect and improve our creeks, lakes, the Duwamish River and Puget Sound.

Salmon Return Family Festival

September 11

Olympic Sculpture Park

www.seattleartmuseum.org/getout

Restore Our Waters Cascade Spawning Cycle

September 12

Seward Park

www.cascade.org/EandR

Salmon Homecoming Celebration

September 17 – 18

Seattle's Waterfront Park and

Seattle Aquarium

www.salmonhomecoming.org

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance International Coastal Cleanup

September 25

Myrtle Edwards Park and Alki Beach

www.pugetsoundkeeper.org/events

Green Seattle Partnership Green Seattle Day

November 6

Locations throughout city

www.greenseattle.org/green-seattle-day



Follow Us at SPU

Get connected with us at Seattle Public Utilities. Follow impacts to your service, prepare for storm season, and find coupons and other money-saving advice. Follow us on Twitter (SeattleSPU), become a fan of Bert the Salmon and Evelyn the Envelope on Facebook, or subscribe to our daily blog *At Your Service*.

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